

The U. S. Department of Transportation estimates that two thirds of fatalities are at least partially caused by aggressive driving.

In some cases it appears that incidents of road rage are caused by simple misunderstandings between drivers. A driver may make a momentary error of judgement but the perception of another is that he is driving aggressively.

**"He/she who drives away,
lives to drive another day."**

Don't Engage

One angry driver can't start a fight unless another driver is willing to join in. You can protect yourself against aggressive drivers by refusing to become angry at them. A person who is angry can do things they may later regret and that includes you.

Give angry drivers lots of room. A driver you may have offended can "snap" and become truly dangerous.



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**Funding Assistance Provided By:
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Road Rage



**Kentucky Crime
Prevention Coalition**

In partnership with the

**Kentucky State Police
Highway Safety
Branch**

“Road Rage”:

Is commonly defined as a societal condition where motorists lose their temper in reaction to a traffic disturbance.

“Aggressive Driving”

Refers to an angry motorist attempting to intentionally injure or kill another driver because of a traffic dispute. Aggressive drivers react negatively and use their vehicles to retaliate by making sudden, threatening maneuvers. This makes “road rage” a serious issue of traffic safety - the safety of yourself and others.

Most aggressive driving behaviors are caused by the drivers' own moods and reactions when they get behind the wheel.

Common Motorist Irritants

- Tailgating to pressure a driver to go faster or get out of the way.
- Flashing lights in order to signal persons to move to another lane.
- Obscene gesturing.
- Changing lanes without signaling.
- Blasting the horn.
- Frequently changing lanes by weaving back and forth.
- Racing to beat a yellow light that's about to turn red.
- Traveling in the passing or left lane at a slower speed, making it impossible for others to pass.
- Driving with high beams on behind another vehicle or toward oncoming traffic.
- Not reacting quickly after the red light turns green.

What Motorists Can Do

- Use directional lights to indicate a lane shift.
- Keep windows up and doors locked.
- Be polite and courteous.
- Listen to music slower than your heartbeat.
- Drive at a safe following distance.
- Don't become distracted by using the car phone or reading the paper while the vehicle is in motion.
- Put some physical distance between you and drivers who are behaving erratically.
- Don't show a reaction to the aggressive driver, especially, avoid eye contact.
- Avoid behaviors that antagonize or irritate others.
- Be tolerant of those who exhibit non-conforming traffic behaviors.